



2009 Calendar of Events

Please mark your calendar for these upcoming NCBA events. Locations to be announced via the newsletter and website (www.nevadacountybar.com) unless otherwise noted.

- February 10** **Criminal Law Subsection** – Contact Steve Munkelt at 265- 9508
- February 11** **Noon - Trolley Junction.** Gold County Estate Planning Council [NOTE NEW DATE]

FEBRUARY 18 5:30 – 7:30

**ANNUAL MEETING: KEYNOTE SPEAKER
HON. JUSTICE RONALD B. ROBIE.**

- February 23** **Noon – Nevada City Courthouse.** Family Law Subsection presentation by CoRR
- February 25** **Noon - Holbrook Hotel.** ADR Lunch

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Award Nominations/ Family Law Update March 26, 2009
- 4 Granlibakken MCLE Conference ; Comings & Goings; news from the State Bar; AOC Fellowship Opportunity
- 5 Classifieds & Officers Contacts
- + **NCBA & LRS Joint Annual Meeting**
Wednesday, February 18th 5:30 – 7:30

Next MCLE Luncheon Dates for 2009

Where: Holbrooke Hotel, Grass Valley
When: **March 25**
 May 27
 July 22
 Sept. 23

11:15 a.m. Executive Committee
12:00 General Membership

Price: **\$26 ea. Members with RSVP**
 \$30 ea. No RSVP

Program includes
1 hour of MCLE Credit:

Menu Choices: TBA

Attendees should email jifordlaw@yahoo.com to receive advance pricing.

Reminder: Have you sent in your '09 Dues?

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

This was a great year for the NCBA, and it was my pleasure to serve as your President.

We concluded our year with an extraordinary and humorous ethics MCLE presentation by Boston attorney, William Korman. The comments were universally enthusiastic and overwhelmingly positive: "It was the most painless ethics MCLE I ever earned," said one attendee. "We were entertained the whole time...", said another. Another added, "It will change how I do things from now on." Thank you to all who attended.

I am looking forward to another wonderful year for our Association. We had a productive strategic planning session in December, which resulted in many new ideas for 2009 and beyond. It is obvious that we have tremendous energy and momentum going into the New Year.

Important Business:

The Executive Board Calls for a Leader for 2009.

Our Annual Meeting is coming up on February 18, 2009. Our

Bylaws provide that Officers are elected for a one-year term.

We need a volunteer or volunteers to run for the Executive Board who are willing to fulfill the positions.

Please consider supporting your community, and assisting and continuing the good works of your Bar Association in this way. If you have any interest, please call me, **Debbi Sitzberger** at 274 1321, and I'll be glad to give you more information about this rewarding experience.

This is a unique opportunity. If you decide to step up, you will have plenty of help and support. We currently have a *record number of member attorneys* willing to serve on the Executive Board.

Tentatively we have the following Member Attorneys slated and ready to run for positions on the Executive Board subject to our Membership's approval at the Annual meeting including: **Dave Finch**, who has expressed interest in filling the President's position; **Judy Ford**, who is our current Secretary; **John Bilheimer** who is our current Treasurer; **Neil Dorfman**, a current Executive at Large; **Peter Bronson**, a current Executive at Large, and **Tom Norton**, who has expressed interest in a position as Executive at Large. And, of course, as Past President, I will assist, guide and support, as needed and commit to serving on our Executive Board in that capacity.

In addition, the following Member Attorneys have committed to their support of our Association as Committee Chairs subject to their re-appointment by the new Executive Board: Social Committee, **Yolanda Bachtell**; Law Day Committee: **Stephen Baker**; MCLE Committee, **Kipp Wordell**; Fee Arbitration Committee, **Andrew Harris**;

Bylaw Amendment To Be Proposed at the Annual Meeting.

Our Bylaws have had the same dues structure, i.e. \$50.00 a year for as long as anyone can actually remember. The current Executive Board has researched the dues structure of other local bar associations, reflected on our Budget and decided to propose a change for 2010. First, we think it is in the best interest of the Bar Association to adopt a more flexible "Dues" provision, instead of naming a particular figure that must be changed by an amendment to the Bylaws. Currently, our Dues are simply set at \$50.00. Here is the provision amendment we will propose at the Annual Meeting, and we will also propose that the dues for 2010 be increased. The actual increase will be left to the wisdom of the new Executive Board. (This proposed provision was largely borrowed from our neighbor Placer County Bar Association).

**ARTICLE II - DUES AND FEES
Section 2. Annual Dues.**

Annual dues are payable on or before January 1 for each year. Regular and Associate Members shall pay, by January 1, annual dues in amounts to be fixed from time to time by a two-thirds vote of the Executive Committee without any involvement by the members. Any change in dues shall become effective the following calendar year. Different dues may be set for each class, but dues shall be equal for all members of each class. Those members who have paid the required dues in accordance with this section shall be members in good standing.

We look forward to seeing all of you at the Annual Meeting. It is being held in conjunction with LRS this year and we are looking forward to the Keynote Speaker: Hon. Justice Ronald B. Robie.

Thank you again for the opportunity to serve.
Debra Sitzberger
President, NCBA

ANNUAL MEETING – February 18th 5:30 – 7:30

Nevada City Winery
321 Spring Street
Nevada City, CA

Alcoholic and Non-alcoholic drinks and light hors d'oeuvres will be served.

RSVP by February 13, 2009 to:
NCLA 120 N. Auburn Street, #214, Grass Valley, CA
95945

\$35 per person with prior reservation
\$45 at the door

2009 AOC/LAAC Family Law Conference

We are pleased to announce that registration for the 2009 AOC/LAAC Family Law Conference is now open! The 2009 Conference is co-sponsored by the Legal Aid Association of California and the Administrative Office of the Courts. It will take place from February 25-26, 2009 at the Milton Marks Conference Center in San Francisco. There will be a diverse offering of workshops, as well as the opportunity to network and attend the 2009 Family Law Awards Ceremony. We hope you will join us on one or both days of the conference!

Please find the registration forms for this training, with logistical details, descriptions of the sessions, and registration fee information [here](#).

Please note the registration deadline is Friday, February 13, 2009. All late registrations will be subject to a \$20 late fee. If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact me! We look forward to seeing you at the 2009 Family Law Conference.

Vivian Chen, Training Associate, Legal Aid Association of California (LAAC)(415) 834-0100 x312

Court Appointed Attorneys

The AOC requires that court employees attach a printout to all travel claims to substantiate mileage for travel.

In keeping with the tightening budget and these audit requirements, please ask court appointed attorneys, interpreters, court reporters, and other contract professionals who bill mileage to attach verification of mileage.

The printout from map quest or a similar website with mileage calculation is acceptable.

Nellie Strong, Accounting Supervisor
201 Church Street, Suite 6. Nevada City, CA
530-265-7173, FAX 530-478-5603

Section Notes

Criminal Law Section:

2nd TUESDAY of the month at 5:30 p.m.

Taking on the system can be lonely work - so come by and get support from your peers!

The criminal defense group is meeting on **2nd TUESDAY of the month** at 5:30 p.m. (If you would like to receive the group's e-mail notices, call Anita at 265-8508). The meetings are kept to about one hour max, so as many as possible can attend.

There are kudos each month for individual successes, and contributions to criminal defense - if you have a nomination, tell Steve or Anna at 265-8508. - Steve Munkelt

Family Law Section:

Noon at the Nevada City Courthouse

Our next Family Law Luncheon will be at CoRR on February 23 at noon. The plan will be to take a tour of CoRR and have the staff explain to us the many services they offer and also to view their facility. We hope to have a conference room where we can ask questions of the staff either before or after the tour.

I invite all family law attorneys, therapists and CASAs to attend this informative meeting.

Contact: Chuck Eckerman by phone at 477-2440 or email eckerlaw@sbcglobal.net.

ADR Section:

Noon at The Holbrooke Hotel in Grass Valley (parking in back).

ADR Section: **Wednesday, February 25, 2009**, Noon, Holbrooke Hotel, front room for lunch (we're moving to a quieter location). We'll be finalizing the agenda for our March 25 MCLE program for NCBA, and sharing ideas on how to convene a mediation to hone our skills as mediation practitioners.

Contact Rosemary Metrailler: rmetrailler@metrailler.com (530)265-3062

Gold Country Estate Planning Council:

The GOLD COUNTRY ESTATE PLANNING COUNCIL meets monthly at 11:45 am-1:15 pm, usually every every first Wednesday. **February's Meeting I will be on the 2nd Wed of Feb due to a scheduling conflict. Contact Terry Brown for details.**

The luncheon meetings are held at the Trolley Junction Café (at the Northern Queen Inn) in Nevada City. All are welcome!

To RSVP for the next meeting, please call Terry Brown at 530-273-1323.

Or check out the website: www.estateplanningcouncil.net.

FAMILY LAW MEDITATION:

Effective March 1, 2009, due to budgetary short falls, Family Court Services will now offer one (1) voluntary mediation appointment per year. If the parties agree upon having a custody evaluation, drug assessment/testing etc. the follow up appointment will be included in the one (1) voluntary mediation appointment per year policy.

Also:

Family Court Services will no longer be offering Mediation Orientation on Wednesday mornings.

All other days will remain the same [Mon., Tues., Th., Fri., 9:00 a.m.]

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO ATTEND THE

ELEVENTH ANNUAL FAMILY LAW UPDATE

**THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 2009
9:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.**

ONE LOCATION:

NEVADA COUNTY COURTHOUSE, DEPARTMENT III

Award Nominations Open

Nominate individual attorneys, attorney teams and/or law firms that provided outstanding pro bono legal services during calendar year 2008 for the State Bar of California's 2009 President's Pro Bono Service Awards.

Please also consider submitting a nomination for the 2009 Loren Miller Legal Services Award. This award was created in 1977 to honor an attorney who has demonstrated long-term commitment to legal services and who has personally done significant work in extending legal services to the poor. Information about Richard Rothschild, the 2008 Loren Miller Legal Services Award recipient is posted at

http://calbar.ca.gov/state/calbar/calbar_generic.jsp?cid=11398&id=7083. Information about and nomination forms for the 2009 Pro Bono Awards are posted at

http://calbar.ca.gov/state/calbar/calbar_generic.jsp?cid=11398&id=7081 (as well as three additional State Bar Awards: Loren Miller Legal Services Award, Jack Berman Award of Achievement and the Diversity Awards).

Awards nominations must be postmarked by March 16, 2009. The 2009 awards will be presented at a reception on Friday, September 11 during the State Bar Annual Meeting in San Diego. If you have any questions about the awards, please contact me at <mailto:czeisler@manatt.com> or 310-312-4194, or the SCDLS Staff Liaison, Sharon Ngim at <mailto:sharon.ngim@calbar.ca.gov> or 415-538-2267.

American Association of Law Libraries

President Obama also released two important Memoranda: the Memorandum on the Freedom of Information Act, which re-establishes a presumption of openness under FOIA and orders the Office of Management and Budget to "update guidance to the agencies to increase and improve information dissemination to the public," and the Memorandum on Transparency and Open Government, which lays out several ways in which the new Administration will "work together to ensure the public trust and establish a system of transparency, public participation, and collaboration."

This is an issue that AALL has been following for many years, and this new Executive Order on Presidential Records is indeed great news. To read the new Executive Order, you can visit the new White House Web site and click on "Executive Orders" under the "the Briefing Room" tab at the top. Or go directly to http://www.whitehouse.gov/the_press_office/ExecutiveOrderPresidentialRecords.

Emily Feldman
Advocacy Communications Assistant
American Association of Law Libraries

Check Out the Library...

There is a new Attorney Shelf – MCLE and other professional info.

MANY treatises on line as part of the new Westlaw subscription.

PLACER COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

Granlibakken MCLE Conference

April 17 & 18 \$180 PCBA members

\$225 Non – Members pcba@hckjs.com

Comings & Goings:

Note Address Change:

Dave Finch
11294 Buckeye Circle,
Penn Valley, CA 95946.

Have you moved, added an associate, etc?

Let me know hsttauts@nevadacountycourts.com & I'll put it in the newsletter!

NEWS FROM THE STATE BAR

NEW AFFINITY PARTNERS --- A new group of affinity partners who provide tools and services to assist attorneys with marketing their practices have joined *CalBar Connect*, the State Bar's members-only Web site.

AOC Fellowship Opportunity

Judicial Administrative Fellows Program applications accepted through **February 25, 2008**. Administrative Office of the Courts & Cal State Sacramento offers a Judicial Administrative Fellowship. Candidates must have a 4-year degree & 20 years of age.

Stipend & Benefits available – 12 graduate units in Public Administration.

Confidential Hotline:
(800) 222-0767

Free Confidential Assistance to those in the legal community with substance abuse problems.

Weekly Other Bar Recovery Meetings are held in many areas and others are being established.

For times and locations or to start a program in your area contact the website above.

Come Dine & Make a Difference!

What: Kane's Fine Food Restaurant is donating **15% of all gross** receipts to **Big Brothers Big Sisters of Nevada County** for the **February BIG Day**
Out!

When: Tuesday, February 17, 2009
11:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Kane's Fine Food Restaurant
120 East Main Street, Grass Valley, CA
(530) 273-8111

NorCal Assoc of Counsel for Children

Juvenile Dependency Law Training (2.25 Hrs. MCLE)

San Francisco February 10, 2009 5:30 – 9:00 p.m.

Sacramento Sat. Feb 21, 2009 9:00 a.m. – noon
\$25 members / \$40 non-members

RSVP Albert Youn (415) 865-8993
Albert.youn@jud.ca.gov

**DAVE FINCH
MEDIATION SERVICES**

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 - Experienced
 - A-V rated
- See CV at www.mediationserv.com

477-6400

Miner's Village

in Downtown Nevada City

Renovated suites available, Mediation rooms available.

Offices: 240 sf to 1100 sf – as low as \$1.00/sf
Priced from: \$350 to \$1100 – units available on Deer Creek

Mediation: two room suites available – by the Hour or by the day – competitive rates

** Walking distance to the Court house **

Palisades Property Management Inc.
john@grassvalleymanagement.com
www.grassvalleymanagement.com
530.272.8496-P 530.272.8196-fax

**Dispute?
Resolution !**

Judge Albert P. Dover (ret)

Please call: 265 2235 or email at al@adrwithdover.com

Visit the website for information on rates, fees, and services at www.adrwithdover.com

VERITAS INVESTIGATIONS

Ronald J. Eason
CA License: PI 25927
PO Box 1102
Cedar Ridge, CA 95924
[530-263-9489](tel:530-263-9489) or [477-7970](tel:477-7970)

Retired police detective and licensed CA Private Investigator, I had a twenty-three year career and a great deal of valuable training (including FBI homicide investigation, hostage negotiation, crime scene investigation and interviewing techniques) and practical experience. I'm interested in any type of criminal case, missing persons, heir location, birth parent location, insurance and civil cases.

Attorney Volunteer Needed

Legal Services of No. Cal. seeking an attorney to volunteer 1/2 day a week in Grass Valley office, advising mostly low-income seniors on general civil elder law matters. Thanks again, [Bob Lobell](mailto:Bob.Lobell@ncba.org), [Staff Paralegal \(274-3554\)](mailto:Staff.Paralegal@ncba.org).

NCBA CONTACT INFORMATION

OFFICERS

Debra Sitzberger - President
(530) 274-1321, debbisitzberger@sbcglobal.net

Judy Ford - Secretary
(530) 265-0154, jlfordlaw@yahoo.com

John Bilheimer -Treasurer
(530) 265-6357, hbigb@jps.net

MEMEBERS AT LARGE:

Neil Dorfman: (530) 274-0643
dorfman@goodfaithlaw.com

Peter C. Bronson: (530) 432-0851
pbronson@pbronsonlaw.com

Helen Cavanaugh Stauts - Newsletter
(530) 470-2596, hstauts@nevadacountycourts.com

SECTION & COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Rosemary Metraier - ADR Section Chair
(530) 265-3062 rmetraier@metraier.com

Steve Munkelt - Criminal Law Section Chair
(530) 265-8508, smunk@gv.net

Chuck Eckerman - Family Law Section Chair
(530) 477-2440, eckerlaw@sbcglobal.net

Andy Harris - Fee Arbitration Program Admin.
(530) 272-4250, andy@scottbrowne.com

Kipp Wordell - MCLE Chair
(530) 470-0900, kippcharlton@sbcglobal.net

**Judicial Officers
Nevada City Branch**

Department I:	Judge Heidelberg
Department II:	Presiding Judge Dowling
Department III:	Judge McManus
Department IV:	Judge Tamietti
Department V:	Commissioner Thomsen
Department VI:	Judge Anderson

Truckee Branch

Dept. A	Judge Anders Holmer
Dept. B	Commissioner Thomsen

**NCBA
P.O. Box 1473
Nevada City, CA 95959-1473**

www.nevadacountybar.com

**Nevada County Bar Association
Post Office Box 1473
Nevada City, CA 95959-1473**

Nevada County Bar Association

FEBRUARY 18 5:30 – 7:30

**Joint Annual Meeting
NCBA & LRS
ANNUAL MEETING :**

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

**HON. JUSTICE RONALD B. ROBIE.
Access to Justice**
